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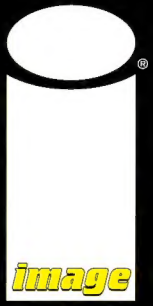
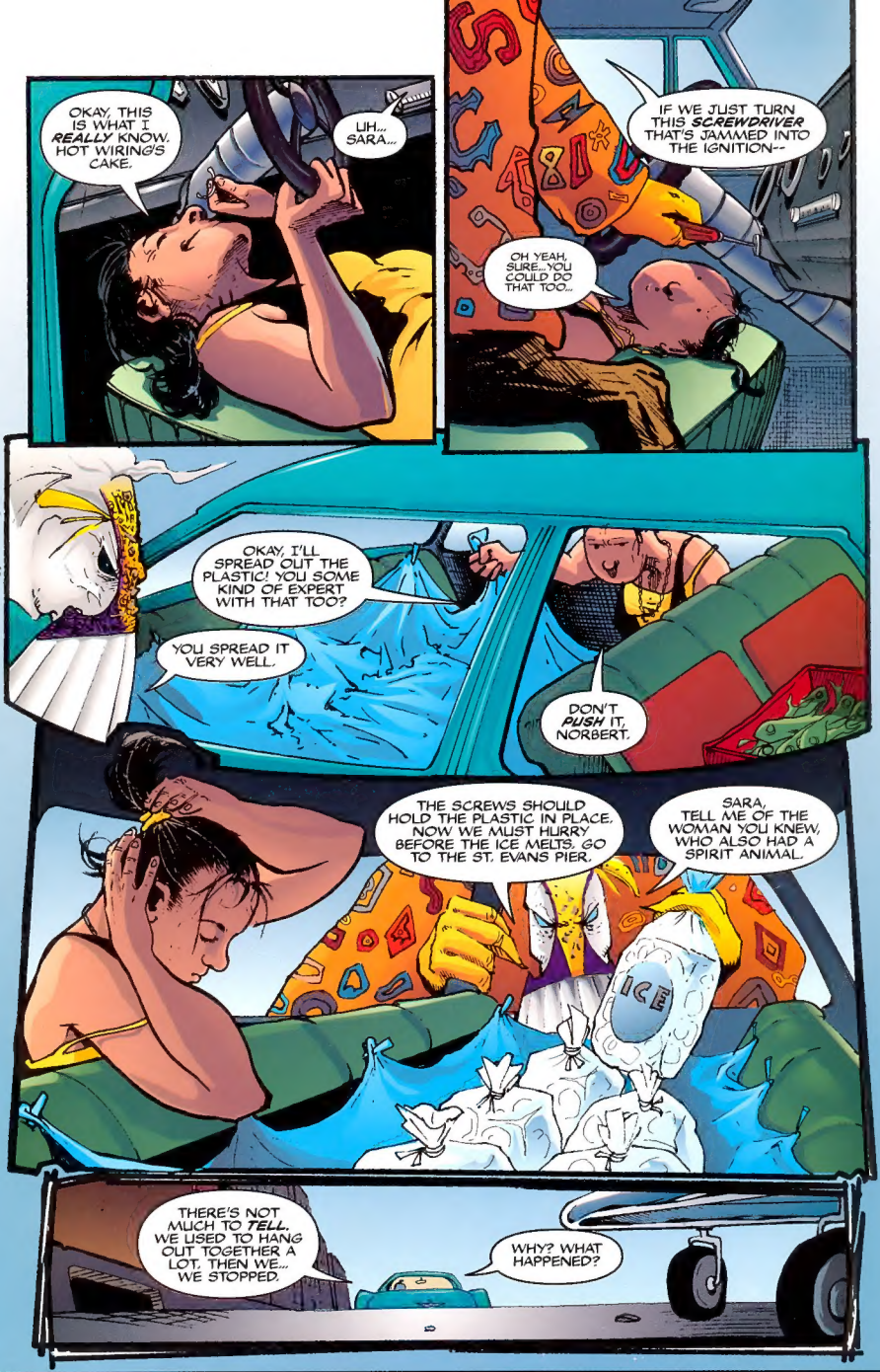
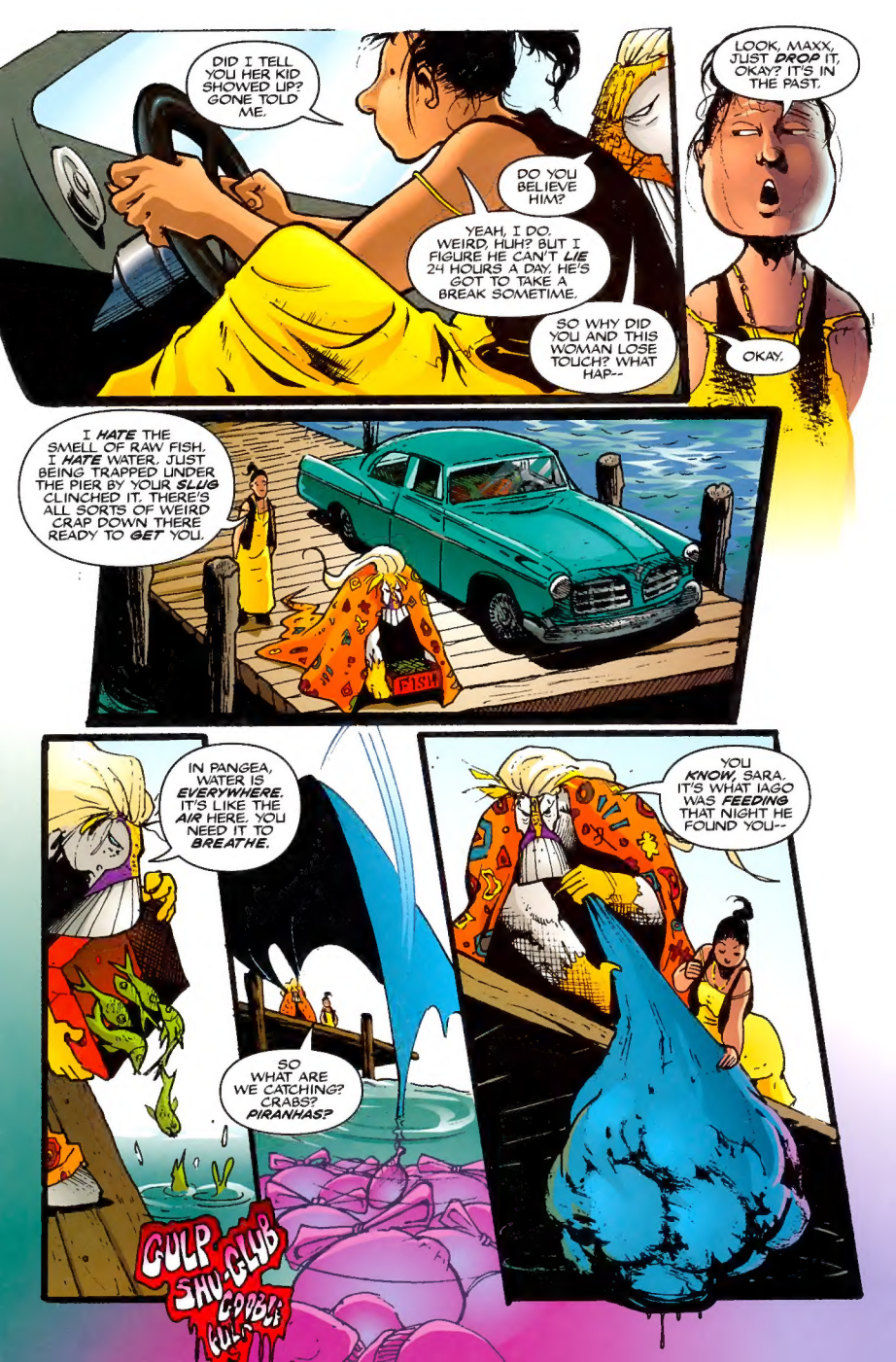
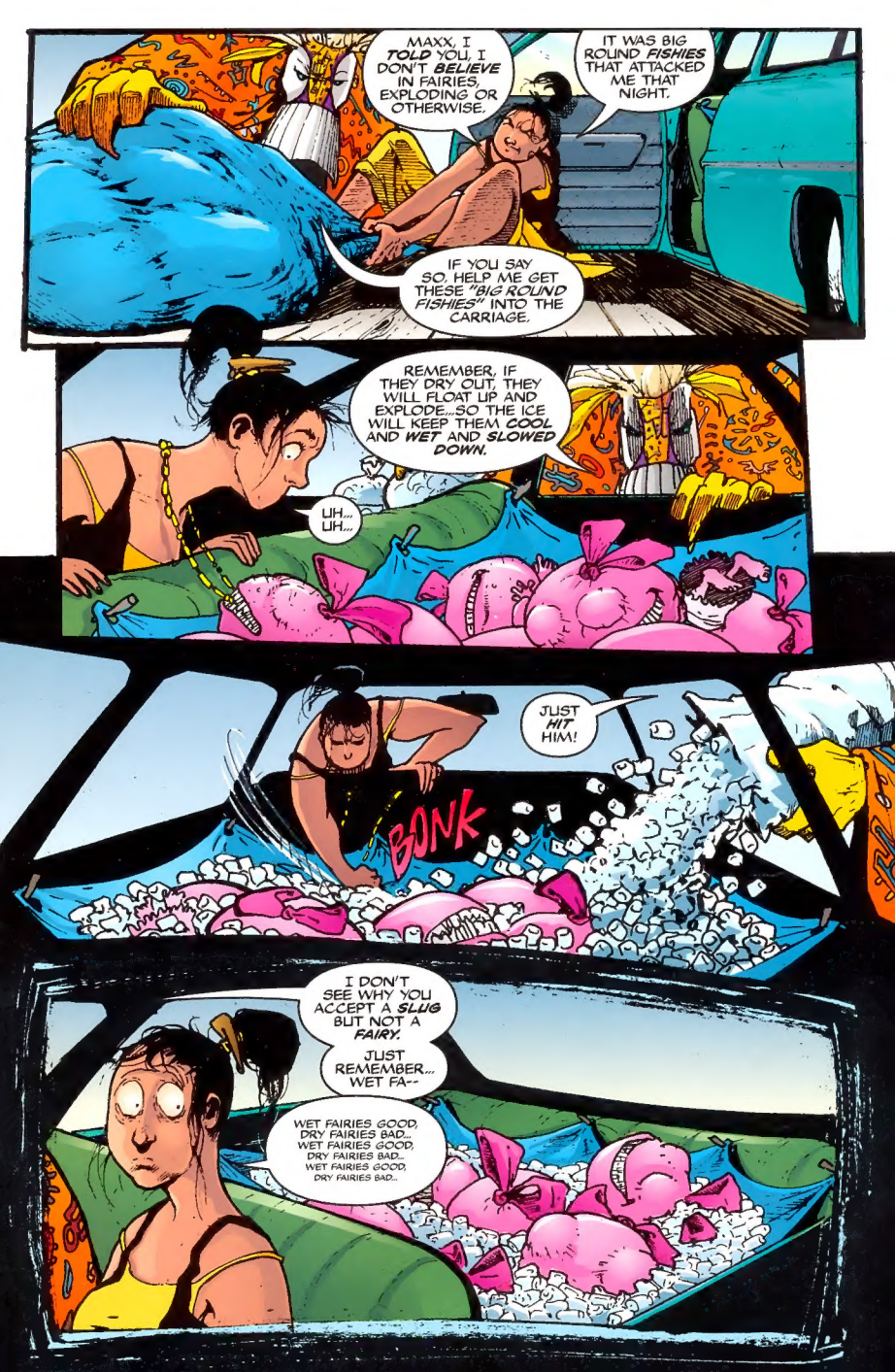


OKAY, I'VE GOT IT. CAME IN TODAY'S MAIL. SO NOW WHAT?
WE OPEN IT AND SEE WHO'S ON THE LIST. WE MUST FIND WHAT IAGO'S VICTIMS HAVE IN COMMON. SOME THREAD...
Y'KNOW, MAXX, I THOUGHT THE GENERAL IDEA OF A MASK WAS TO COVER YOUR FACE.
YOU DON'T LIKE IT? I MADE IT FROM GARBAGE, OLD JUNK, AND USED
NEVER MIND. IT'S FINE. CAN WE JUST GET ON WITH THIS?
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THE CRAP WE WENT THROUGH LAST WEEK TRYING TO GET THESE. IT STILL MAKES MY STOMACH QUEASY JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
LOST AND FOUND
YOU COMPLAIN A LOT FOR A PRINCESS.
YEAH, A "PRINCESS" STANDING IN A JUNK YARD IN CUTOFFS TALKING TO A DEFORMED BUM WHO'S WEARING MY QUILT AS A CAPE.

I STILL REMEMBER THE ODD LIST OF STUFF THAT YOU HAD ME GET.
OKAY, NORBERT, IT'S ALL HERE.
TWENTY BAGS OF ICE...
...A BOX OF UNCOOKED FISH...
...A 10X10 SHEET OF WATERPROOF PLASTIC...
...AND HALF A DOZEN LARGE SCREWS.
WHAT ABOUT THE SQUIRT GUNS?
THEY'RE BACK AT THE HOUSE. SO WHAT'S UP?
YOU'LL SEE! BUT FIRST, WE'LL ALSO NEED ONE OF THESE CARRIAGES.
FISH
OKAY, NOW YOU'VE GOT ME STEALING CARS. GREAT.
WE'LL BRING IT BACK.
WELL, LUCKY FOR YOU, I'M NOT THE GOODY-TWO-SHOES YOU MIGHT THINK. PICKING LOCKS IS SOMETHING I JUST HAPPEN TO BE VERY GOOD AT.
NOW LISTEN AND LEARN...
THE THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT IT TAKES A VERY DELICATE...
CRASH!
...TOUCH.

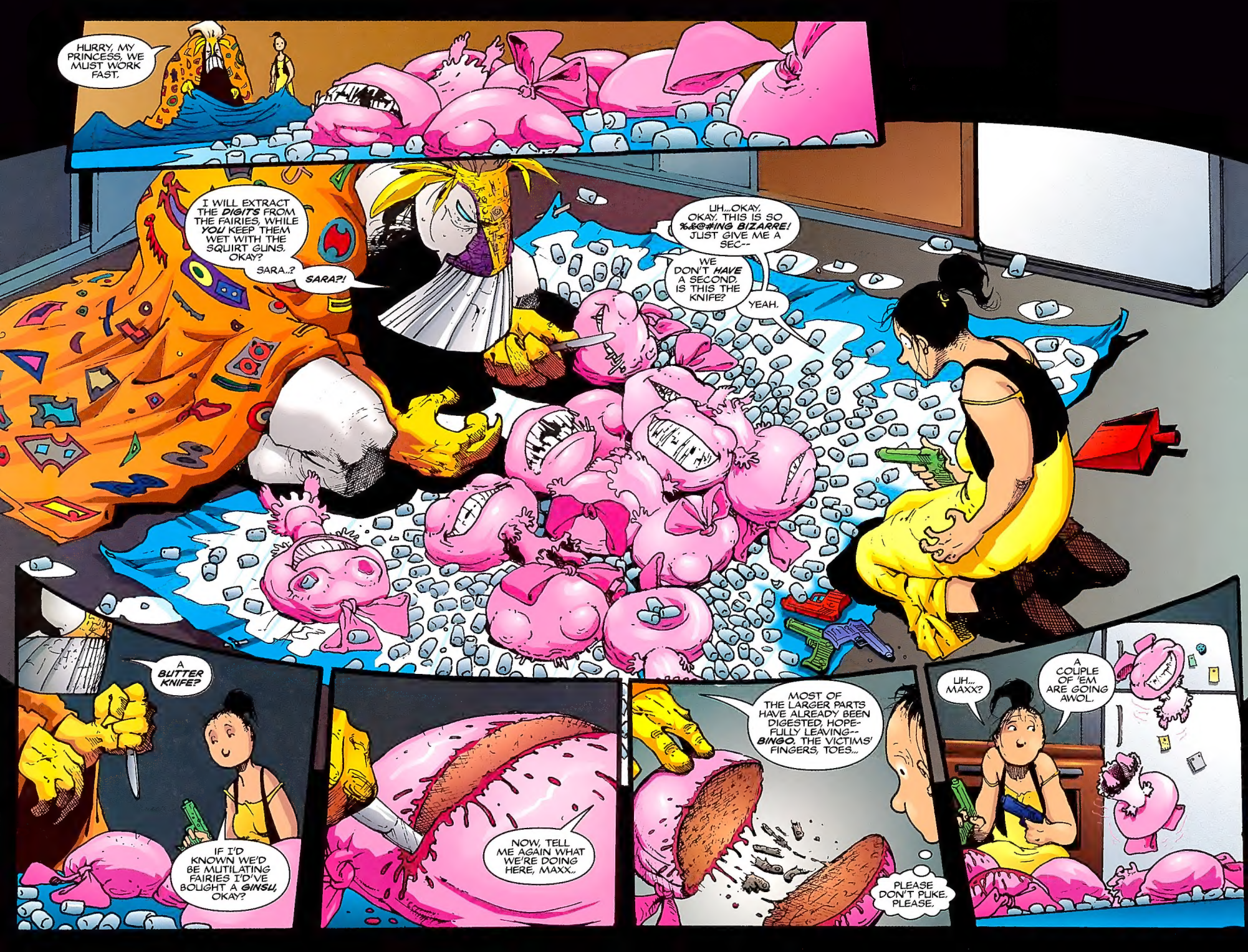

OKAY, THIS IS WHAT I *REALLY* KNOW. HOT WIRING'S CAKE.
UH... SARA...
IF WE JUST TURN THIS *SCREWDRIVER* THAT'S JAMMED INTO THE IGNITION--
OH YEAH, SURE...YOU COULD DO THAT TOO...
OKAY, I'LL SPREAD OUT THE PLASTIC! YOU SOME KIND OF EXPERT WITH THAT TOO?
YOU SPREAD IT VERY WELL.
DON'T *PUSH* IT, NORBERT.
THE SCREWS SHOULD HOLD THE PLASTIC IN PLACE. NOW WE MUST HURRY BEFORE THE ICE MELTS. GO TO THE ST. EVANS PIER.
SARA, TELL ME OF THE WOMAN YOU KNEW, WHO ALSO HAD A SPIRIT ANIMAL.
ICE
THERE'S NOT MUCH TO *TELL*. WE USED TO HANG OUT TOGETHER A LOT. THEN WE... WE STOPPED.
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?

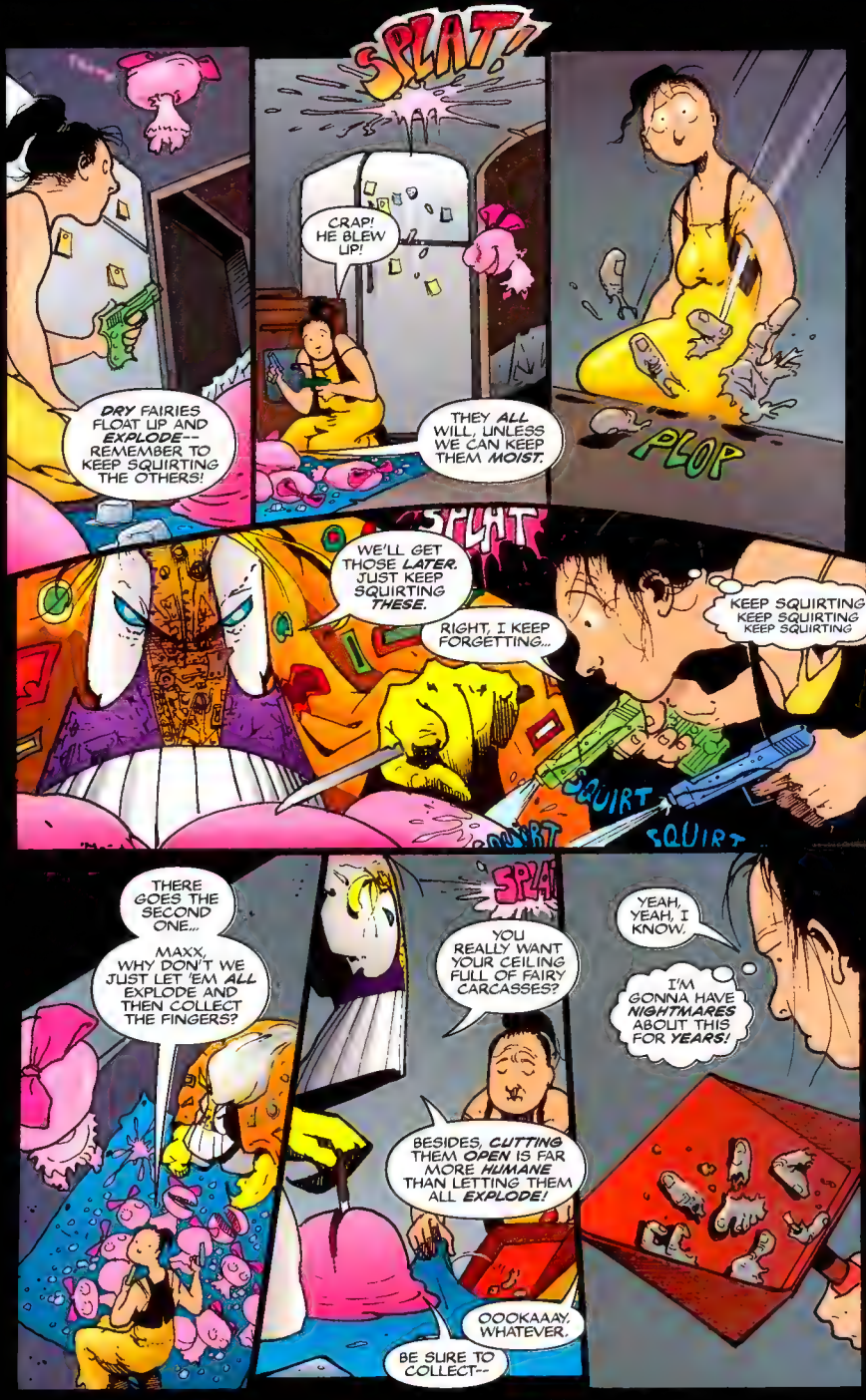

DID I TELL YOU HER KID SHOWED UP? GONE TOLD ME.
DO YOU BELIEVE HIM?
YEAH, I DO. WEIRD, HUH? BUT I FIGURE HE CAN'T LIE 24 HOURS A DAY. HE'S GOT TO TAKE A BREAK SOMETIME.
SO WHY DID YOU AND THIS WOMAN LOSE TOUCH? WHAT HAP--
LOOK, MAXX, JUST DROP IT, OKAY? IT'S IN THE PAST.
OKAY.
I HATE THE SMELL OF RAW FISH. I HATE WATER. JUST BEING TRAPPED UNDER THE PIER BY YOUR SLUG CLINCHED IT. THERE'S ALL SORTS OF WEIRD CRAP DOWN THERE READY TO GET YOU.
FISH
IN PANGEA, WATER IS EVERYWHERE. IT'S LIKE THE AIR HERE. YOU NEED IT TO BREATHE.
SO WHAT ARE WE CATCHING? CRABS? PIRANHAS?
GULP
SHU-CLUB
GOBBLE
GULP
YOU KNOW, SARA, IT'S WHAT IAGO WAS FEEDING THAT NIGHT HE FOUND YOU--


MAXX, I TOLD YOU, I DON'T BELIEVE IN FAIRIES, EXPLODING OR OTHERWISE.
IT WAS BIG ROUND FISHIES THAT ATTACKED ME THAT NIGHT.
IF YOU SAY SO, HELP ME GET THESE "BIG ROUND FISHIES" INTO THE CARRIAGE.
REMEMBER, IF THEY DRY OUT, THEY WILL FLOAT UP AND EXPLODE...SO THE ICE WILL KEEP THEM COOL AND WET AND SLOWED DOWN.
UH... UH...
JUST HIT HIM!
BONK
I DON'T SEE WHY YOU ACCEPT A SLUG BUT NOT A FAIRY.
JUST REMEMBER... WET FA--
WET FAIRIES GOOD, DRY FAIRIES BAD... WET FAIRIES GOOD, DRY FAIRIES BAD... WET FAIRIES GOOD, DRY FAIRIES BAD...

SARA, ABOUT THAT WOMAN... IT'S NOT IN THE PAST, IF HER SON'S HERE, MAYBE YOU SHOUL--
YOU'RE BACK ON THAT? LISTEN, YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY WE'RE NO LONGER FRIENDS?
'CAUSE I LET HER DOWN, THAT'S WHY! NOW YOU KNOW! HAPPY?
EVERY TIME I THINK OF HER, ALL I CAN THINK OF IS HOW I BETRAYED HER.
YOU'RE CARRYING QUITE A LOAD.
YEAH, WELL, MAYBE I DESERVE IT.
NO, I MEAN MAYBE I SHOULD HELP YOU PULL INSTEAD OF PUSHING.
THAT'S OKAY. -GRUNT- ON STAIRS LIKE THESE I'D RATHER BE WHERE I AM INSTEAD OF WHERE YOU ARE, NO OFFENSE.
MAN, THESE... "THINGS" WEIGH A TON.
THE PRINCESS HAS A HEAVY HEART. HOW DID SHE BETRAY HER LONG-LOST FRIEND?

OKAY, YOU WANT TO KNOW, HERE IT IS.
THIS WOMAN I KNEW USED TO TAKE OFF AND LEAVE TOWN WITH NO WARNING, WHENEVER LIFE'S PRESSURES WERE TOO MUCH. WELL, WHILE SHE WAS OUT ON ONE OF THOSE BINGES--
--I...WELL, I ASSUMED SOMEBODY WAS LOOKING AFTER...
...I MEAN, FOR GOD'S SAKE, MAXX, HE WAS FIVE! HE HADN'T EATEN, WAS SITTING IN HIS OWN...YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
ANYWAY, I CALLED C.P.S., THEY TOOK THE KID, JULIE CAME HOME AND FLEW INTO A RAGE, SUNK INTO DEPRESSION, AND TOOK TO THE STREET WITH THE KID.
DID SHE KNOW YOU MADE THE CALL?
NO.
I WAS TOO CHICKENSH*T TO TELL HER.
SLAM

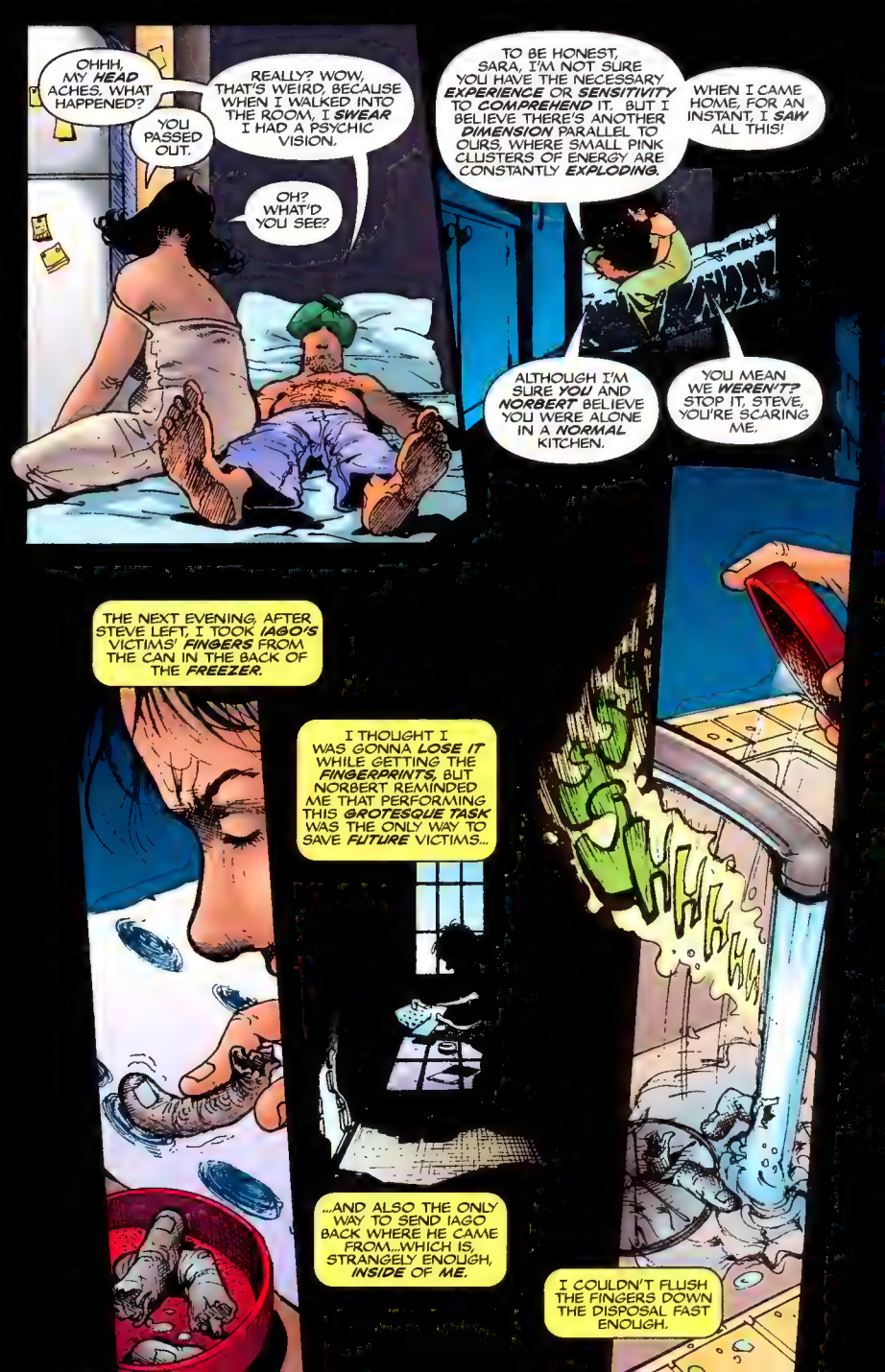

HURRY, MY PRINCESS, WE MUST WORK FAST.
I WILL EXTRACT THE DIGITS FROM THE FAIRIES, WHILE YOU KEEP THEM WET WITH THE SQUIRT GUNS, OKAY?
SARA..?
SARA?!
UH...OKAY, OKAY. THIS IS SO %&@#ING BIZARRE! JUST GIVE ME A SEC--
WE DON'T HAVE A SECOND. IS THIS THE KNIFE?
YEAH.
A BUTTER KNIFE?
IF I'D KNOWN WE'D BE MUTILATING FAIRIES I'D'VE BOUGHT A GINSU, OKAY?
NOW, TELL ME AGAIN WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE, MAXX..
MOST OF THE LARGER PARTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DIGESTED, HOPEFULLY LEAVING-- BINGO. THE VICTIMS' FINGERS, TOES...
PLEASE DON'T PUKE, PLEASE.
UH... MAXX?
A COUPLE OF 'EM ARE GOING AWOL.


SPLAT!
DRY FAIRIES FLOAT UP AND EXPLODE-- REMEMBER TO KEEP SQUIRTING THE OTHERS!
CRAP! HE BLEW UP!
THEY ALL WILL, UNLESS WE CAN KEEP THEM MOIST.
PLOP
SPLAT
WE'LL GET THOSE LATER. JUST KEEP SQUIRTING THESE.
RIGHT, I KEEP FORGETTING...
KEEP SQUIRTING KEEP SQUIRTING KEEP SQUIRTING
SQUIRT
SQUIRT
THERE GOES THE SECOND ONE...
MAXX, WHY DON'T WE JUST LET 'EM ALL EXPLODE AND THEN COLLECT THE FINGERS?
SPLAT
YOU REALLY WANT YOUR CEILING FULL OF FAIRY CARCASSES?
BESIDES, CUTTING THEM OPEN IS FAR MORE HUMANE THAN LETTING THEM ALL EXPLODE!
OOOKAAAY, WHATEVER.
BE SURE TO COLLECT--
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW.
I'M GONNA HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT THIS FOR YEARS!

KNOCK KNOCK
SARA? IT'S ME, STEVE! IS THAT YOU?
OH MY GOD! IT'S STEVE!
QUICK, HIDE EVERYTHING!
WHERE?!
SARA, WHY'S THE DOOR LOCKED? LET ME IN!
JUST A SEC!
OH SH*T!
COMING...
IF STEVE SEES ALL THIS, HE'LL CRACK FOR SURE!
CLINC!
YOU SOUND FUNNY--YOU GOT A GUY IN THERE?
OH GOD...
IT'S OKAY, I'VE GOT A KEY HERE, SOMEWHERE...
NO, WAIT!
SARA, THEY'RE DRYING UP!
THANK GOD THEY DIDN'T ROLL UNDER THE DOOR...

SARA!
SPLAT!
...NEVER MIND.
THERE!
SO WHAT'S THE BIG...
...DEAL.

STEVE..? YOU LOOK A LITTLE...
THUMP
...FAINT.


OHHH, MY HEAD ACHES. WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU PASSED OUT.
REALLY? WOW, THAT'S WEIRD, BECAUSE WHEN I WALKED INTO THE ROOM, I SWEAR I HAD A PSYCHIC VISION.
OH? WHAT'D YOU SEE?
TO BE HONEST, SARA, I'M NOT SURE YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE OR SENSITIVITY TO COMPREHEND IT. BUT I BELIEVE THERE'S ANOTHER DIMENSION PARALLEL TO OURS, WHERE SMALL PINK CLUSTERS OF ENERGY ARE CONSTANTLY EXPLODING.
WHEN I CAME HOME, FOR AN INSTANT, I SAW ALL THIS!
ALTHOUGH I'M SURE YOU AND NORBERT BELIEVE YOU WERE ALONE IN A NORMAL KITCHEN.
YOU MEAN WE WEREN'T? STOP IT, STEVE, YOU'RE SCARING ME.
THE NEXT EVENING, AFTER STEVE LEFT, I TOOK IAGO'S VICTIMS' FINGERS FROM THE CAN IN THE BACK OF THE FREEZER.
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA LOSE IT WHILE GETTING THE FINGERPRINTS, BUT NORBERT REMINDED ME THAT PERFORMING THIS GROTESQUE TASK WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE FUTURE VICTIMS...
...AND ALSO THE ONLY WAY TO SEND IAGO BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM...WHICH IS, STRANGELY ENOUGH, INSIDE OF ME.
I COULDN'T FLUSH THE FINGERS DOWN THE DISPOSAL FAST ENOUGH.

HEY MISTER, YOU NAMED DAVE?
WHAT OF IT?
WELL, I'M LOOKING FOR MY MOM. JULIE WINTERS. I HEAR YOU USED TO KNOW HER, AND I--
JULIE...
YEAH, I'D HEARD SHE WAS STILL AROUND, IN AND OUT OF SHELTERS. BUT IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE I'VE EVEN SPOKEN TO HER. WHY WOULD YOU COME TO--
LISTEN, SHE THOUGHT THAT SOMEBODY WAS TRYING TO KILL HER. YOU KNOW, THE RUMORS 'BOUT SOME BIG GUY IN A YELLOW COAT, DRAGGIN' BUMS OUT TO THE SHORE AND KILLING 'EM! SHE WAS CONVINCED SHE WAS NEXT!
LOOK, KID...I'M SORRY, BUT YER MOM PROBABLY TOLD YOU THAT STORY, SO YOU'D GIVE UP ON HER AND SHE COULD DITCH YOU.
SHE ALREADY DITCHED ME, DOZENS OF TIMES...
...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GONNA STOP LOOKIN'.
OKAY, FAIR ENOUGH. I KNOW OF ONE PLACE SHE MIGHT BE...
...IF WE'RE NOT TOO LATE.

IT'S LIKE A BAD NIGHTMARE, MAXX. IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS AND I STILL CAN'T GET THOSE FINGERS GOING DOWN THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL OUT OF MY MIND.
YES, BUT NOW OUR WORK HAS PAID OFF. AND YOUR FRIEND AT THE AGENCY CAME THROUGH. FROM THOSE FINGERPRINTS, WE'LL KNOW THE NAMES OF IAGO'S VICTIMS.
Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING 'BOUT WHAT YOU SAID 'BOUT JULIE'S SON BEING A CHANCE TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH HER...TO LET HER KNOW WHAT I DID. I MEAN, IF SHE CAN'T FORGIVE ME, FINE. BUT AT LEAST...
BUT AT LEAST SHE'D KNOW?
EXACTLY.
WELL, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.
YEAH. Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE EVERYONE THAT I GET CLOSE TO LEAVES ME! DADDY WHEN I WAS LITTLE, THEN THE FIRST MAXX BECAME A BUM AND LEFT...
...THEN I BLOW IT WITH JULIE, AND CAUSE HER TO SPLIT. NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS MOM, AND SHE HASN'T GOT LONG. THAT'S WHY THIS THING WITH JULIE COULD MEAN...
...HOPE.

NOW, LET'S SEE THE NAMES OF ALL OF THOSE POOR SUCKERS THAT'VE BEEN FAIRY FOOD, THEN MAYBE WE--WE...
SARA? WHAT IS IT?
YOU LOOK PALE... WHAT'S WRONG?
SARA..?
VEGA, VINCENT
WOJEHIEWICZ, JOHN
HAGNER, DONNA
YEE, MICHAEL
WILLIAMS, BRUCE
YOUNG, NELSON
WINTERS, JULIA
TRENTON, CATHERINE

Dear Sam,

I am convinced that you are a woman. Is your name Samantha? No way could a man experience dissociative identity disorder in the way that you express it. **[Way!]** I lived with multiplicity for 23 years and I want to thank you for the work that you are doing. You are reaching us.

To Julie, Little Julie, The Jungle Queen, her Leopards, The Maxx, and anyone else who I have not named, I hope the torture ends. You have suffered enough at the hands of miserable people.

Thank you for telling the story,

Rachel Shard
Plainville, MA

You're so sincere that I won't even make one of my typical stupid jokes. I'll just shut up and say thank you.

AMY SHAPIRO
Burke, VA

Dear Sam,

I am playing pro basketball in Europe for one year. Of course I love the game...that's the reason I'm here...to play.

One night I happened to be watching MTV. The Maxx came on. Ever since, I have tuned in each week. I told my fiance about The Maxx. He was a sweetie and went out and bought me all the comics to read. Well, I used to think comics were stupid and so were the crazy psychos who read them. I know, that was really prejudiced of me. I am sorry. I was way off. Comics are OK and so are the people who get engulfed with them. I came to this realization because of The Maxx.

I found out my subconscious (now conscious) #2 reason for coming to Europe. I was running away. I came to get away from big problems I had no clue on how to handle. My sister was attacked. She tried to kill herself twice—on accident, she says. My best friend also tried to kill herself, along with my fiance's brother. I was absolutely "bumfuzzled." How could so many people be in such pain that their only way out was...Anyway, I somehow felt responsible. I have always been the strong/leader type. When all of this hit in less than one year...well, I didn't know how to fix their sadness and the distress it was causing me.

Thanks to The Maxx, I understand so much more. Maxx, Julie, and Sarah have helped me better understand how people feel and react to incredibly hard situations. Because of The Maxx, I know I can't "fix" their aching. I can only be there and let them know I love them. They will talk about it all when they are ready. All I can say is how happy I am they are all alive today and how grateful I am that your comic helped me stop running from not being able to rescue and heal everyone. Only time can attempt to do that.

Thank you so much.
MMM
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Kieth,

First things first, your comic kicks serious butt. Now let's get down to business. The Maxx, a horse, I don't think so. What's up with that? The Maxx I know and love is a rabbit. The new Maxx is a big FAT horse with no middle finger spike! There is no Maxx without the

spike. And what is up with the feet! What happened to those big shoes with the bagels on the side! Replace the isz with flying fairies? Flying fairies!?! It's crazy! Why did you change the spelling of Sarah? How did Mr. Gone shrink the CIA guys? Where does Steve come into the picture? Well gotta go, my brain hurts. Keep up the good work, and bring back the old Maxx.

Sincerely,
Troy Hill
Detroit, MI

Sigh...I remember when everybody had a fit about Maxx being a rabbit...

STEVE CLARK
Collegeville, PA

Dear Mr. Kieth,

I'm waiting for The Maxx action figure...I hate it when the salesmen go "Who?" I bought She-Spawn but the guy at Toys 'R' Us said he didn't get Maxx in, but I think I got ripped off by an employee.

Your loyal reader and buyer,
Brent Redmon
Austin, TX

Sometimes employees are also collectors. Also, several Toys 'R' Us clerks have witnessed tug o' wars between collectors and small helpless children, so clerks often keep collectible toys in the back. If you ask the clerks REAL NICE you might be able to weasel one out of them.

Dear Sam,

I heard that Maxx action figures are being shipped with the Spawn toys, but there will only be one Maxx figure per case. Is that true?

In need of Maxx figure,
Joel Garofolo
Clarksville, TN

Yes. And watch for those illusive white isz.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

I am writing about the Maxx Ultra Action figure. I have been searching for it, but I have not found it. Some guy at Toys 'R' Us said you stopped making it. What's the deal?

Maxx fan,
Ryan Devlin

Yes—unfortunately, all of Todd's Series Four toy line (the one that Maxx is in) has sold out and is no longer in production. Todd says FAO Swartz will release another version of The Maxx (with 4-5 isz/pack) later in the year. We're also talking about making some bags of isz—what do you think?

In the meantime, you'll have to rely on stock that's already out there. I notice there are some Maxx's for sale in this issue of Head to Head.

Dear Sam Kieth,

Who paid the bills and the rent while Julie was on her sex/crime spree?

Zero White
Sale Creek, TN

Sex/crime spree?!? You've got me—I have no idea.

Dear Sam,

Why is there no bathtub in Sara's bathroom?

Sincerely,
Caleb Fox

No shower, either. Sara and Steve give themselves (or each other) sponge baths in the sink.

STEVE THOMS
Clinton, IL

Dear Sam,

In ish #21 Mr. Gone, er, Artie said that he had projected an image of himself into Sara's head and that Mr. Gone was not real, and she had made it all up. Does this mean that Julie and Maxx were not real, either? If so, will we ever see them again? And if not, where are they?

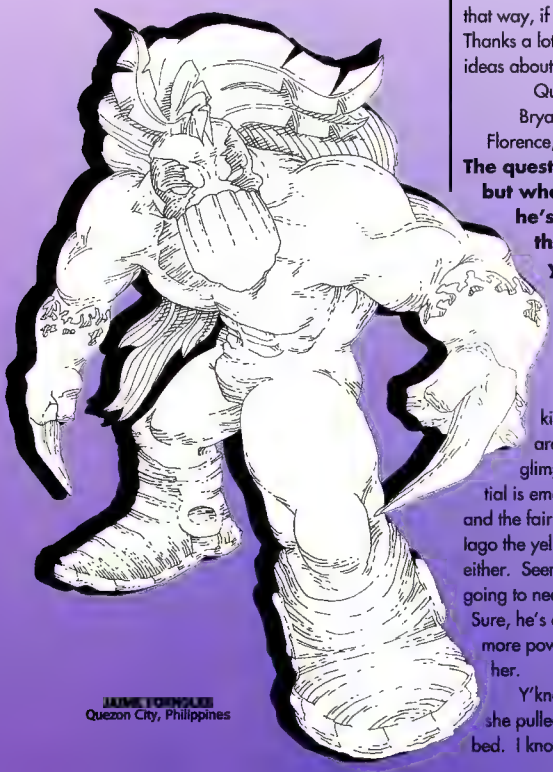
Your Maxxhead,

This is something Alan Moore introduced, and I'm not sure where to go with it. Either Gone was lying, or perception depends on the observer. The main problem I had was that it invalidated everything Sara knew to be true. So I had to change it back to Gone acknowledging that it did happen. Any thoughts from anybody else on this?

AMADO RODRIGUEZ
Milwaukee, WI

Hey!
I only have one question: what does your Outback look like?
Your punker fan,
Shahab Zargari

I'm as unaware of my Outback as Sara is of hers. And that may be a good thing...



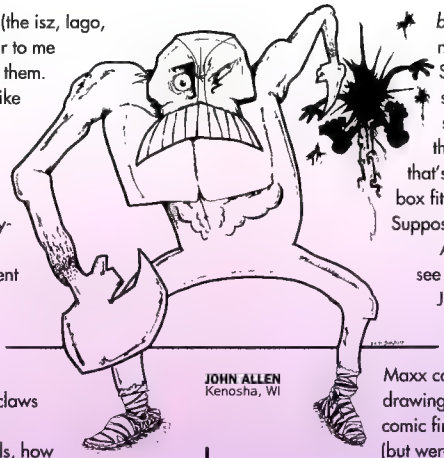
JUAN TORRALBA
Quezon City, Philippines

Hey Sam,
AAAAAAHHH! I thought I was finally starting to get what was going on and then I read Maxx #21. So the "rapist serial killer" bad guy in the first 20 issues is actually this kinda nice, almost grandfatherly (or uncle-ly) guy who lives in a mobile home!?! Um...just tell me why Julie saw Mr. Gone that way, if it was just Sara(h)'s perception of him. Thanks a lot (really) for totally screwing up all my ideas about what the heck is going on.
Quite the SFC,
Bryan King
Florence, KY

The question is not what Gone's done, but whether Sara can accept him if he's really changed (don't forget, this is ten years later). What if your dad did something really awful—could you ever accept him again?

Hello Sam,
So far, so good, huh? Sarah's (I kinda like the 'h' better, sorry) adventures are gaining momentum. We've seen a glimpse of her Outback, her magical potential is emerging, Norbert has revealed himself and the fairies are bubbling up the pier. Oh, and Iago the yellow banana slug is not far behind either. Seems that Steve left Sara(h) when she's going to need support, that selfish, sulky child. Sure, he's disappointed that Sarah might have more power than he does but he should still help her.
Y'know, I was as surprised as Sarah when she pulled the blanket and found a horse in her bed. I know that denizens from the Outback can

cross over to the real world (the isz, Iago, the fairies) but it didn't occur to me that Sarah's Maxx is one of them. I thought that Norbert was like the old Maxx, a man with a spirit animal projected into him, though Norbert looks cool as an equine Maxx. How did they cross over anyway, Mr. Gone's portals? Also, if Outbacks are different per person, how come Norbert's got the Seedbringer mask that belongs in Julie's Pangaea. Will he have Dave Maxx's claws too?



JOHN ALLEN
Kenosha, WI

Speaking of spirit animals, how about Sarah's old playthings, Mr. Yakity-Takity, Pumpkin, Poochie and Mr. Dial-A-Doodle? Were they also spirit animals? I thought it was one specific spirit animal per person. What forms did they take when they crossed over? Poochie and Pumpkin might have made it as a dog and a, uh, pig or hamster but what about Mr. Yakity-Takity and Mr. Dial-A-Doodle? A signpost and a television? **[Very funny.]** No wonder they failed their mission. But please don't let them be dead. Poochie and Mr. Dial-A-Doodle are cute and Iago must have been real mean to hurt them.

As vicious a villain as Iago is, I'm not sure I like him as Sarah's nemesis. He's kinda like the old Mr. Gone, a psychotic murderer with a secret, except he's yellow and not human. Gone has his beliefs that what he's doing is not real and his dimensional portals, while Iago has his psychological slogans, his list and the exploding fairies from the pier. I think Sarah should fight a sorcerer. Iago hasn't shown any mystical abilities and seems to be all muscle. If Sarah's going to inherit Mr. Gone's powers, she should match wits with someone of her caliber.

How about the 'is' that Mr. Gone called over but remained white? Suppose its mimicking powers are different when its color is not the usual black. Suppose it *becomes* what it wears, not just copy the form. Suppose it finds the semi-sentient black cape that Gone used to wear that's kept in the cedar box fitted without nails. Suppose it wears it...

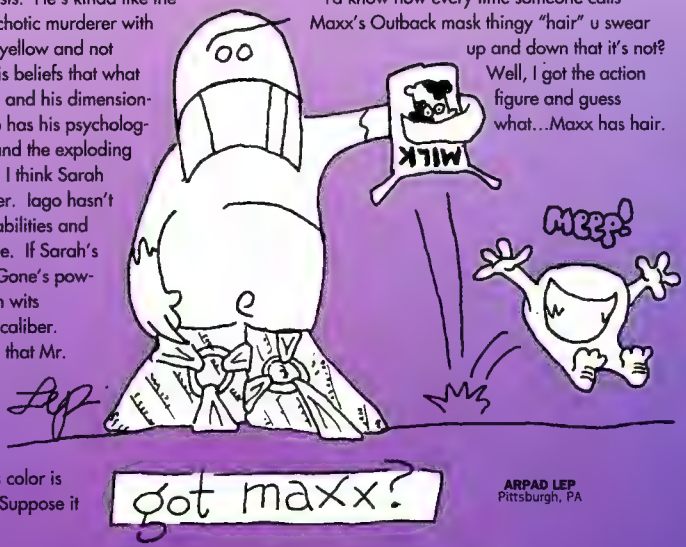
Anyway, it's nice to see the old Maxx and Julie again. I recognize some of the pictures from the Topps Maxx card set. Were the drawings intended for the comic first before the cards (but were never published until now), or did you just decide to take them from the cards for fun?

A Maxxhead,
Benedict 'Fero' Bartolome
Quezon City, Philippines

Hey—what's the idea of making up your own plot in my book...oh wait, this is The Maxx. We don't have a plot. (The story came first, before the cards.) Maybe Iago the slug will grow on you (a repulsive thought...)

Hey Sam,

Ya know how every time someone calls Maxx's Outback mask thingy "hair" u swear up and down that it's not? Well, I got the action figure and guess what...Maxx has hair.



ARPAD LEP
Pittsburgh, PA

Are you gonna let some toy company do that to u?

Rachael
Chantilly, VA

Do u know how many birds would have to go naked so Maxx toys could all have feathers? Makes me cry...

Dear Sam,

What is the true secret behind The Maxx's mane?

Noah Gould
Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz? That's the home of Iago!

The true secret is that birds don't mind going naked in the Outback. Besides, clever Maxx readers will find ways to personalize their Maxxes.

Dearest sweetest Maxx (and friends),

Anneliese from New Zealand here. Fate put issue #5 in my grubby little mits about two years ago; since then we not only developed a passion for cartoons but also for you my dear (and your friends).

I believe Julie and I are kindred spirits, from the hair colours down to the morning sickness. The one step ahead of your fans is I know what flavor (of child) Julie has, "Cause we been there, man." (Don't worry Maxxy, she'll always love you, and all it means is that you'll have someone new to play with.)

I was wondering if any of the Maxx Traxx fans could help me get hold of Maxx issues **[try Head to Head].**

Thanks for being so animated in my life.

Your friend,
Anneliese K.
Auckland,
New Zealand

P.S. I had a boy and his name is Perry.

Cool!

Dear Sam,

I love these new Maxx stories—Julie and the original Maxx aren't missed at all. Thanks for keeping Gone around too. Although everything is now different, it's still spookily familiar. There's still a Maxx, still a nutter serial killer, still isz, and still an Outback. How do you manage to do it so seamlessly, Sam? Is it simply a case of sticking with a winning formula or are you even cleverer than we fans give you credit for!?

Want to hear a bizarre 'coincidence'? My first encounter with your new nutter Iago (in The Maxx # whatever it was) was the day after I'd been to see the new film version of *Othello*. I don't know if you've seen this film but in my opinion (humble as it is) it was only raised to 'enjoyable' status by Kenneth Branagh's brilliant protrayal of the villainous Iago. So the idea of people called 'Iago' being complete bastards was at the front of my mind as I read The Maxx. So if a Maxx film is ever made, my suggestion is for Branagh to play Iago! What do you mean, "they are two completely different characters"? Branagh is God! The finest actor on the face of the planet! He can turn his hand to anything! Then again, maybe the guys who operated Jabba the Hutt in *Return of the Jedi* would be a better choice.

Mr. Paul Register
Sheffield, England

Convincing Branagh to wear a giant yellow suit would be worth the price of admission alone.

Gee—if I go to a Shakespeare play, will there be a giant purple rabbit named 'Dave?'

(I may be painfully unhip, but what is "nutter?" Is that a British thing?)

Dear Mr. Maxx (AKA Sam Kieth),

Is it always nighttime in The Maxx or is it just me?

Tyler Montgomery
Palo Cedro, CA

Just you. I would never stoop to anything as low as setting scenes at night so I didn't have to draw backgrounds...

HEY SAM WHAT'S UP,

I wrote you about this before but it bears repeating: plush (as in stuffed animal) white isz are the answer to the world's problems. C'mon, they're so small and cute and smiley, how can ya not love them? I'm sure Todd's company can work out the specifics; at least ask the readers what they think about this idea. Referendum is the best way to satisfy the majority...

Peace,
Mike Coffey
Havertown, PA

Stuffed isz? What about stuffed fairies? That explode!

Hey guys,

1. Okay Sam, I'm trying to get some names straight. Julie's parents' names are Carol Winters and John Winters (...please tell me you didn't do that on purpose). Sara's mom's name is Tilly James ("Tilly" came from issue #6 and "James" is Sara's last name. Unless it's Tilly Pender...). Now, does Dave have a last name? Does the P in Artemis P. Gone stand for Pender? Just tryin' to get all this crap right.
2. Hey! I got an idea. If, somewhere down the line, you guys get stuck on stories, you could take a new character (like Steve), or an old character (like Artie), give them a Maxx/spirit animal, and give them ten issues or so to screw around. Artie's animal could be a cow (remember his bathroom?).

Mahalo,
Brian Windsor
St. Charles, IL

1. **Everything's right, but Dave's last name will always remain a secret. Pender is Artie's real name; Gone is what he used when he became unhinged and started committing crimes—that's when he became "Mr. Gone!"**
2. **Cool.**

HEY, FOLKS—
THE MAXX TRADE PAPERBACK WILL BE RE-ISSUED JULY 12- THAT'S ISSUES 1-6 BOUND TOGETHER.
CHECK IT OUT!

PS/HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS WE GET ASKED ALL THE TIME: No subscriptions or retail sales available/sorry. Use Head to Head to find back issues/fan clubs/whatever (use the address in the indicia)/postcards are cheap and easy like us/WRITE LEGIBLY. No we don't print all the letters or art we get/too many/yes we do read them ALL/ you might get answered or printed or edited/you might not/life's funny that way. B&W art has better chance of being published than color/can't return artwork/sorry. Keep 'em coming/the better the letters and submissions, the better the book! Oh yeah.

april 4th

Love these exploding fairies
and their glimmering bright pink skin;
but these childlike and dainty smiles
hide the vicious teeth within.
Those little ones just need to eat
they gobble up that human meat.
Iago feeds these lovelies the remnants of the kill
those poor unfortunates
who met with his motivational skill.
Dear old Artie is gone no more
and quite often, Sara comes knocking on his door
A sort of tribute to Julie & Dave
in memory of the pain Gone gave.
Sara's smart, she's in the know
Artie's no innocent; he's there lurking behind the show.
Into the story comes Norbert (once a rocking horse
brought to life through Sara's confusion & remorse.
He tries to awaken her sleeping psyche
to fight Iago and claim her sanity.
Norbert's suspicious of the urn,
but Rosteval just might help if he returns.
(Yes, he's dead, but his powers are not
they're caught in the ashes stored in that big brass pot.)
Steve's a junkie roommate, hooked on ESP & nicotine
keeps tryin to move that glass (10 times more power in Sara's dream).
so we'll sit back & watch
as the story unfolds
Maybe Norbert convinces her,
maybe Artie once again become bold!

— Anonymous

LAURENT LeFeuvre
Chavange, France

DARREN RAGLE
Roseville, Ca

POP

SANDRO KOPP
Heidelberg, Germany

DAVE ROMAN
N. Babylon, NY